

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2002-257146 (considered to be the equivalent of U.S. Patent No. 6,918,701 to Ueno), and further in view of Kellam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,000,909). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a strut sliding bearing comprising an upper casing made of a synthetic resin and having an annular lower surface, a lower casing which is made of a synthetic resin, is superposed on said upper casing so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper casing, and has an annular upper surface opposed to the annular lower surface of said upper casing, and an annular thrust sliding bearing piece which is made of a synthetic resin, and is interposed between the annular lower surface of the upper casing and the annular upper surface of the lower casing, said annular thrust sliding bearing piece having an upper surface which is in slidable contact with the annular lower surface of the upper casing, and a lower surface which is in slidable contact with the annular upper surface of the lower casing, wherein said lower casing has on a lower surface thereof a spring seat surface for a suspension coil spring, said lower casing includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface of the lower casing is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface, the annular base portion, the upper

cylindrical portion, and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities, each of which opens externally at said lower surface of the annular base portion or a lower surface of the lower cylindrical portion.

In particular, as amended herein, claim 1 comprises a lower casing which includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface of the lower casing is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion. The lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serves as the spring seat surface.

The Examiner roughly compares claim 1 with Ueno such that the lower casing 2 of Ueno includes an annular base portion 84, an upper cylindrical portion 13 which is integrally formed on an upper surface of the annular base portion 84 and on which the annular upper surface 14 is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion 86 formed integrally on a lower surface of the annular base portion 84, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as a spring seat surface.

The upper cylindrical portion of claim 1 is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion. Further, the lower cylindrical portion is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion.

As a result, Ueno does not disclose that the lower casing includes an upper cylindrical portion in which the annular upper surface is formed, nor the lower casing having a lower cylindrical portion.

Further, Kellam et al. also does not disclose the claimed strut sliding bearing, especially the upper cylindrical portion in which the upper annular surface is formed, as well as the lower surface of the annular base portion on which a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-120.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Paul T. Bowen/
Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100